

Knife Fire Update

Date: May 27, 2006, 8 p.m.

Fire Name: Knife Fire

Time/Date Started: Called in by O'Leary Lookout at 2:14 p.m.

Location: Southeast of Walnut Canyon; several miles east of Flagstaff; on the Coconino National Forest

Cause: Cause is under investigation

Fuels: Pinyon/juniper woodlands; grasses

Size: 100 acres

% Contained: 0 %

Resources Committed: 4 engines, 2 water tenders, 2 Type 1 crews (hotshot crews), 4 dozers, and several individual firefighting personnel

Estimated Cost to Date: Unknown

Predicted Weather: Red Flag conditions through 8 p.m. tonight. Red Flag conditions predicted tomorrow from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. A Red Flag warning means that critical fire weather conditions are either occurring now or will occur during the warning period. A combination of strong winds and low relative humidities will create explosive fire growth potential. Strong winds are expected to persist into tonight's evening hours. Sustained winds are topping 35 mph, and wind gusts are reaching 45 mph in some locations. Tomorrow, windy and dry conditions will continue. However, winds are not expected to be as strong as today. Sustained speeds are expected to reach 15 to 25 mph with gusts to 35 mph.

Structures: No structures threatened at this time.

Summary: Interstate 40 is being impacted by smoke. However, the highway remains open. DPS is on scene and is in direct communication with incident personnel. The fire has moved to within a mile of the interstate. A smoke column is visible from Flagstaff.

Restrictions: Campfire and smoking restrictions are in place for the Coconino National Forest.

- Campfires, charcoal grills, and stove fires are prohibited on national forest lands, roads, and trails. An **exception** will be to continue to allow these campfires in developed **fee** recreation sites where grills and campfire rings are provided.
- Pressurized liquid or gas stoves, lanterns and heaters meeting safety specifications are allowed.
- Smoking is prohibited except within enclosed vehicles, buildings, or developed **fee** recreation sites where the area is cleared of all flammable material.

Contact Numbers: 928-635-5607, 928-606-7490